(d) While there is no authentic estimate of destitute people in the country, the number of beneficiaries under the schemes mentioned in part (a) during the last three years is as under:—

Name of the Scheme	No. of beneficiaries		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Upto November, 2004)
An Integrated Progamme for Street Children	37,195	43,556	25,734
An Integrated Programme for Older Persons	78,225	1,58,113	30,100

National Policy on tribals

417. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring a National Policy on tribals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had sought the suggestions and views of NGOs and other working organizations in the field of tribals welfare;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to hold four regional level seminars prior to finalisation of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Please.

(b) to (d) The draft policy on tribals has been placed on the Ministry's web-site *www.tribal.nic.in* earlier for eliciting suggestions and views of NGOs, Experts and People's representatives, etc. In a similar way, additional draft policy on tribals has been circulated for eliciting public opinion. Prior to finalizing the tribal policy, the Ministry is organizing four zonal seminars and one national seminar at different places. One such regional seminar has been organized at Shimla on 18-19 November, 2004.